



Billerica Parent Advisory Council for Special Education
Minutes for Meeting with Special Education Directors

March 14, 2007 @ 4:00 PM

Location: Special Education Conference Room

Present: Tom Walsh, Elementary Special Education Director; Priscilla Aufiero (BPAC Secretary), Joanne Barry (BPAC Chair), Michele DeParasis (BPAC Treasurer), Carol Rose (BPAC Officer), Christine Battcock (Parent)

-- PAC Budget

Tom Walsh reported that Dr. German will not be in attendance at this meeting because he is attending a budget meeting. Dr. German will be reviewing the entire Special Education budget and is working on including PAC budget as a component of the SpecEd budget.

-- Speech and Language Staff at Hajjar and Dutile Schools

Joanne Barry reported that two parents called her to report that their children were not receiving speech and language services due to the speech provider shortage and teachers' contract issues (i.e., working to clock). Joanne asked Tom Walsh who is keeping tracking of the students receiving S/L services and making sure that students continue to receive services regardless of the shortage of personnel.

Tom reported that Bridgette Ambrose is now working at the Hajjar and he will ask her to provide an updated list of students receiving services. Also, if parents have concerns, they should contact the Special Education Director for resolution.

Tom also reported that the Dutile School is still experiencing a shortage because a staff person is out on medical leave. In the meantime, they have been using per diem/contract people to fill in. When needed, the parents are offered compensatory services. The service provider should be contacting the parent to arrange for these services. Tom will contact the Dutile staff to make sure students are receiving the required services through these providers.



Transition Meetings

Joanne reported that the current procedure for students who are on IEPs and are transitioning to a new school needs improvement. The IEP is written and recommendations are made for the new school but parents are not given the opportunity to look at the recommended program before placing the student. A procedure should be written and included in the Procedural Safeguard handout so parents can be made aware that they may review the programs before placement. This will be discussed with Dr. German.

It was also mentioned that some Parent Rights pamphlets had been distributed in error. These pamphlets were updated and replaced with the Procedural Safeguards pamphlet. All Parent Rights pamphlets should be discarded.

IEP Progress Reports

Joanne reported that she has been informed that a few parents from the Locke Middle School have not received IEP progress reports and she asked Tom who is responsible for overseeing this process. Joanne expressed that there appears to be many inconsistencies and inadequacies in the current systems. She proposed that Dr. German and Tom Walsh be available on parent / teacher nights so a parent can offer feedback or express their concerns. This may help us all work together and make it a fair process for the students and parents.

Evaluation Consent Form

At present, the parent signs a consent to test, attends the IEP meeting, and receives the written IEP. This process should also include the areas of concern for the teacher. Services and accommodations can sometimes be overlooked when the teacher is not involved in the initial written portion of the plan.

Got Books Fundraiser

Joanne reported that the "Got Books" fundraiser containers should be in place at each school by mid-April.

Meeting Adjourned.